
Discover the Great Outdoors!

Accessibility and the National Forests



Janet Zeller

U.S. Forest Service

National Accessibility Program Manager

jzeller@fs.fed.us



Captioning and Description of this Webinar (per 29 U.S.C 794d)

Captioning: This webinar is being real-time open captioned.

Description of slides: To ensure that any participants with limits to their vision will be aware of everything on the screen, I will read and describe key points on each of the slides as well as provide a lot of additional information verbally.





green areas = **National Forests** = 193 million acres

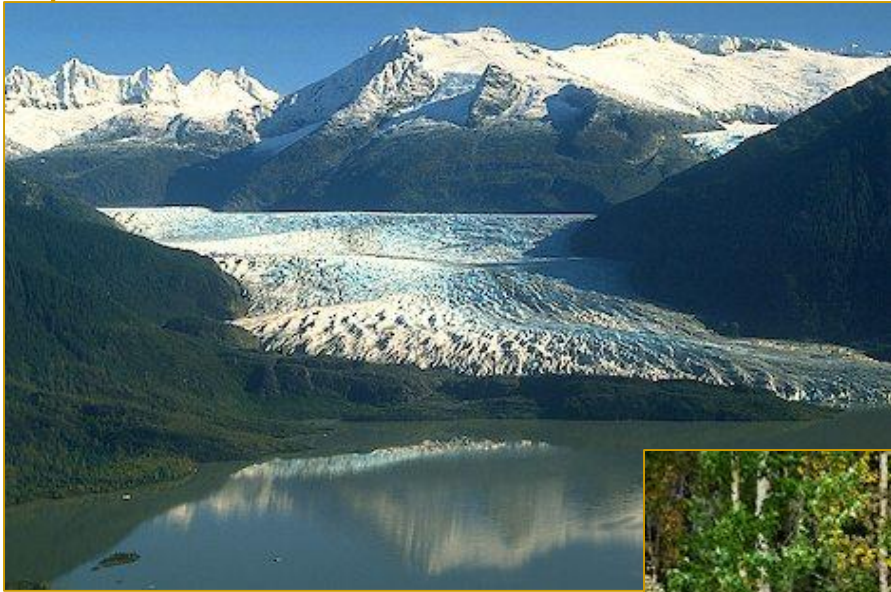
U.S. Forest Service



193 Million Acres



Alaska



Puerto Rico

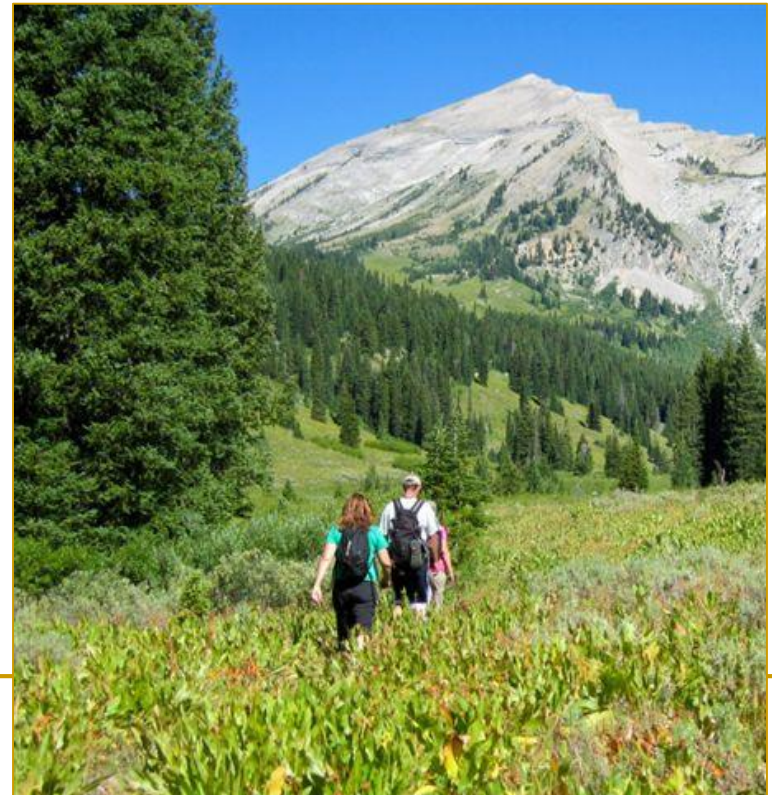


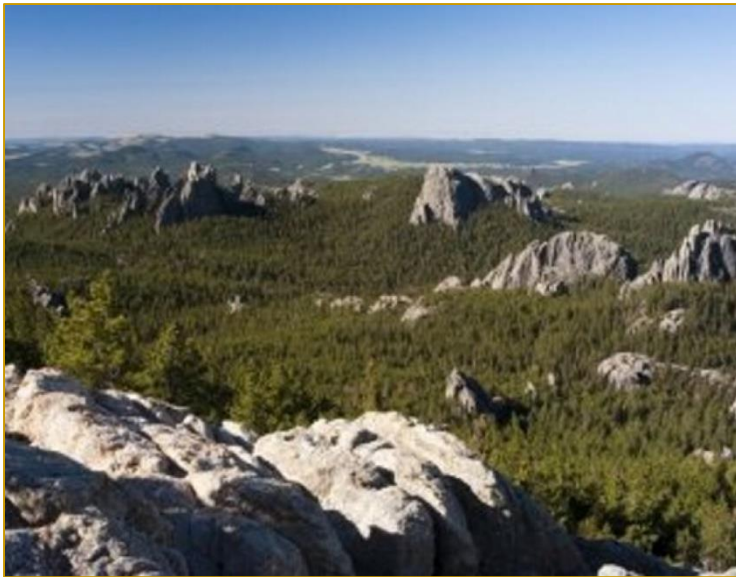
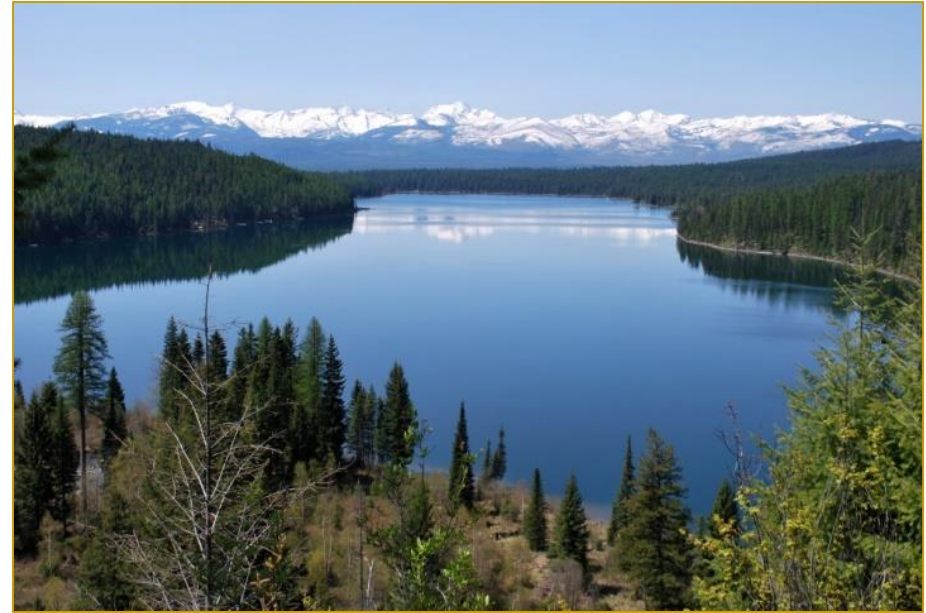
California



NH/Maine

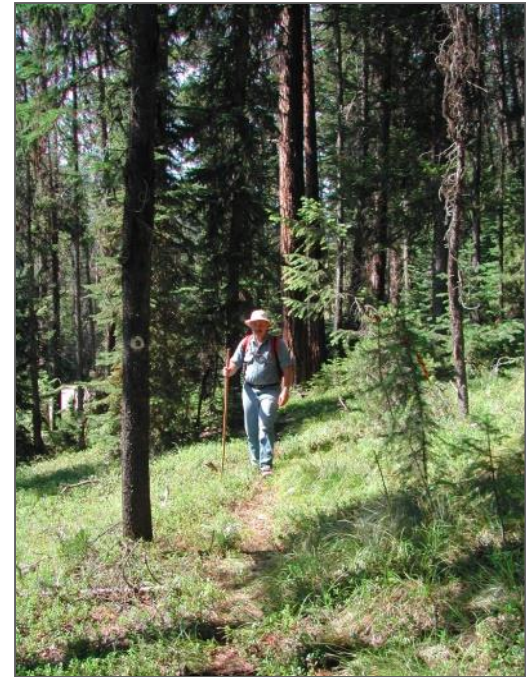








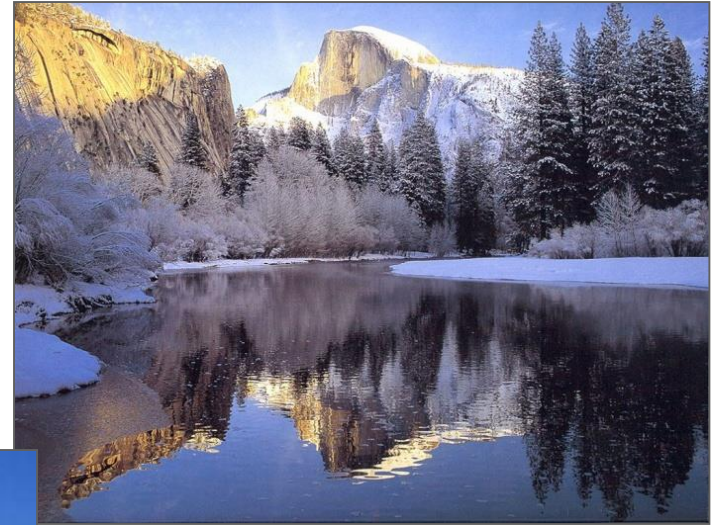
158,000 miles of Trails



101 National Wild and Scenic Rivers



439 Wilderness Areas



36.7 million acres

33,000 Forest Service employees



WHY is accessibility so important?





More than 57 million people have a disability.





15 % of disabilities
are obvious.

85% of disabilities
are unseen.



People recreate with their family and friends.

Annually of the 150 million NFS rec. visitors,
8% self identify have a disability.

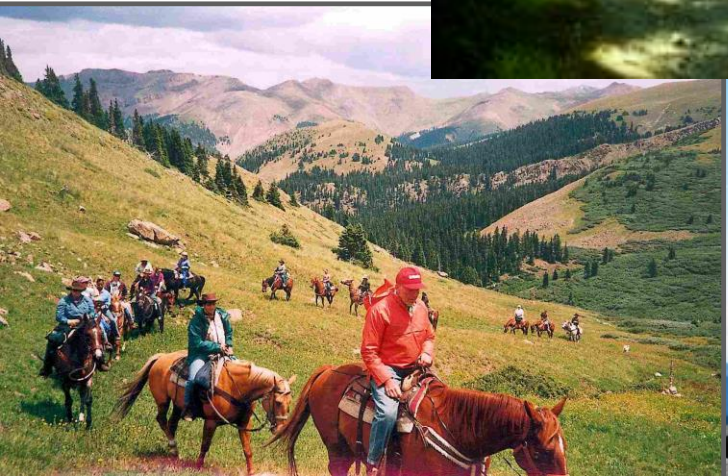
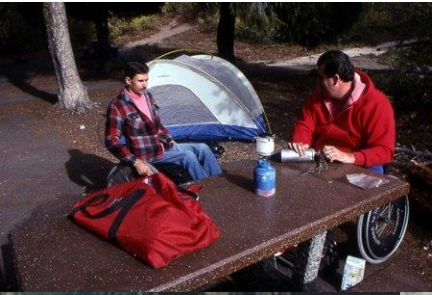




**And disability often comes
with aging.**



Recreating on the National Forests.....



The NFS is like a Big Backyard



The NFS is like a Big Backyard



The NFS is like a Big Backyard



The NFS is like a Big Backyard









and...

there are legal requirements...



Where does it say I have to do that?

- **1968 Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)**: requires all facilities designed, constructed, altered, rented or leased by, for, or on behalf of a federal agency
...AND new or altered facilities on federal lands are required to comply with the applicable accessibility guidelines/standards.



Where does it say I have to do that?

1973 Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act

- 7 CFR 15 b for the Permit Holders
- Program must be open to all qualified people, unless their participation requires a change to the program that would “fundamentally alter” that program.
- No person can be denied participation in the program unless that person does not meet the essential eligibility requirements to participate in the program which are applied to all potential participants.



When is it “accessible”?

- “Accessible” = in compliance with the most stringent Federal or Forest Service accessibility guidelines in place at the time it was constructed, altered, reconstructed, purchased, rented or leased.
- When a facility or a constructed feature is constructed, altered, reconstructed, replaced, purchased, rented or leased.
 - that facility or constructed feature must be brought into compliance with the most stringent Federal or Forest Service accessibility guidelines in place at that time



Accessibility Standards and Guidelines

- **Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS) 2006**
- **FS Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG) 2013**
 - campgrounds, picnic areas, viewing overlooks, beach access, etc.
- **FS Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG) 2013**
 - New trails, with a Designed Use of Hiker/Pedestrian, that connect directly to the trailhead or connect directly to a currently accessible trail.

www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility



Which Accessibility Standards / Guidelines Apply Where?

ABA Accessibility Standards	Federal Agency Outdoor Developed Areas	
	FSORAG and FSTAG apply within NFS boundaries	
	FSORAG	FSTAG
Buildings, Boating & Fishing	Developed Recreation Site Constructed Features	Hiker/Pedestrian Trails that meet ALL of the following criteria
<p>all buildings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - administrative offices - residences - crew quarters - visitor centers - entrance stations - parking lots <p>and including components such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restrooms with and without running water - work stations - doors - operating controls (door handles, faucet controls, etc.) - drinking fountains <p>Boating and Fishing Piers & Docks</p>	<p>newly constructed or reconstructed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - picnic areas - picnic tables - fire rings - cooking surfaces - grills - pedestal grills - woodstoves - fireplaces - benches - beach access - outdoor recreation access routes - campsites (table/cooking pads, parking spurs, tent pads, platforms) - campground utility connections - outdoor rinsing showers - remote area pit toilets - trash/recycling containers - viewing areas and overlooks - telescopes and periscopes - mobility device storage 	<p>1. new or altered trails</p> <p>and</p> <p>2. designed for hiker/ pedestrian use</p> <p>and</p> <p>3. trail connects directly to a trailhead or connects directly to a currently accessible trail.</p>



Status of Forest Service Recreation Accessibility

- 25, 576 Accessible Campsites
- 8,422 Accessible Recreation Buildings



Administrative Facilities



Visitor Information Centers





Exhibits

Clear floor space and within 48".....

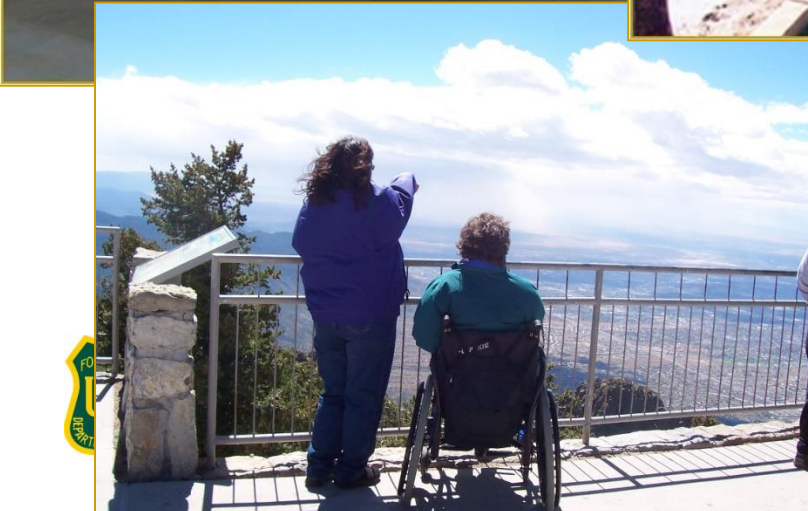


Exhibits

operable with 1 closed fist



Viewing at Overlooks



Recreation Facilities



Picnicking



Camping



Camping





Camping Related Constructed Features



Picnic Tables

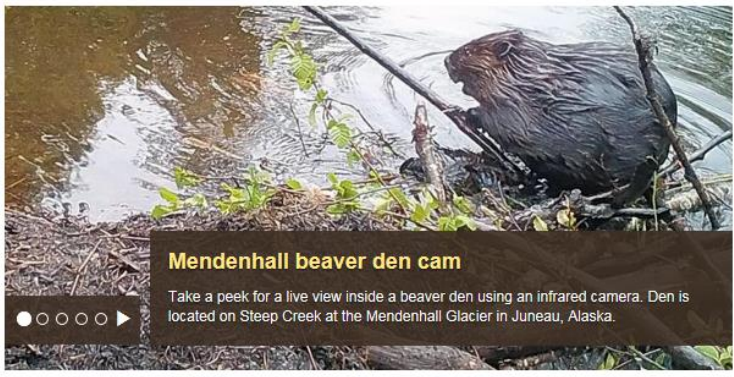


www.fs.fed.us

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE**
Caring for the land and serving people
United States Department of Agriculture

Enter Search Words

[Visit Us ▾](#) [Managing the Land ▾](#) [Learn ▾](#) [Science & Technology ▾](#) [Working with Us ▾](#) [About the Agency ▾](#)



Mendenhall beaver den cam

Take a peek for a live view inside a beaver den using an infrared camera. Den is located on Steep Creek at the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska.

● ○ ○ ○ ○ ▶

Find a Forest or Grassland






Select a State

-- All States -- ▾

Select a Forest or Grassland

-- Select One -- ▾


Stay Connected:



[Our News](#) [Blogs](#) [In the News](#)


U.S. Forest Service Names New Director To Oversee National Fire and Aviation Management Program
June 17, 2016

Forest Service Makes it Easier for Visitors to Enjoy National Forests and Grasslands
June 17, 2016




Faces of the Forest Service

Read about our people, places and






Visitor Map

Use our interactive map to find places





Forest home page



White Mountain National Forest

[Forest Service Home](#) [About the Agency](#) [Contact the National Office](#)

Search

Go

[Site Map](#)

White Mountain National Forest

Home

[Special Places](#)

[Recreation](#)

[Alerts & Notices](#)

[Passes & Permits](#)

[Maps & Publications](#)

[Land & Resources Management](#)

[Learning Center](#)

[Working Together](#)

[About the Forest](#)

[News & Events](#)

Contact Information

White Mountain National Forest
71 White Mountain Drive
Campton NH 03223
(603) 536-6100

Dial 711 for
Telecommunication
Relay Services.

Telecommunications Information

Office Hours: Monday -
Friday, 8:00 - 4:30

Information for all

Welcome!



Bears are opportunistic - secure your food while recreating.

...

Bear Safety - Put Your Food Away

Always put your food away in your vehicle when not actively dining and keep your backpack with you at all times.

If a bear should enter your camping area or site while you are dining, bang pots and pans, yell at them and continue to make a lot of noise. This kind of discouragement often deters a bear. Always report a bear sighting or encounter to the campground host. Bear encounters are less likely if you follow food storage guidelines at all time. **Visitors will receive a citation for sites where visitors have not properly stored their food as described in the guidelines.****White Mountain NF Announces New Artist in Residence**

FIRE DANGER
LOW
TODAY!

**Quick Links**[Schedule of Proposed Actions \(SOPA\)](#)[Forest Road Status](#)[2005 Forest Plan](#)[Tropical Storm Irene closures - still in effect](#)**Alerts & Warnings**[Temporary Trail Closures](#)[Firewood Prohibition](#)[Moriah Brook Bridge Closure](#)[Areas Closed to Motorized Use](#)[View All Forest Alerts ...](#)**Related Links**[National Weather Service](#)[Visit NH](#)[Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire](#)[NH Grand](#)[NH Loves Campers](#)[NH Fish and Game](#)[Museum of the White Mountains](#)[hikeSafe](#)[Campton Recreation](#)

www.recreation.gov

[Enhanced Search](#)

**Recreation.gov**
EXPLORE YOUR AMERICA

[Need Help?](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[f Like](#) [58K](#) [g+](#) [p](#) [i](#) [f](#) [v](#)

[Find Places & Activities](#) [Explore Trip Ideas](#) [Build A Trip](#) [Help & FAQ](#) [About Us](#)

[Sign In or Sign Up](#)

[Search](#)



Your Guide to Great Trails

Some of our favorite trails recommended by rangers across the country. [Hike on.](#)

**Build a Trip**
Create your adventure now

**Make a Reservation**
Reserve your experience today

Discover Camping Spots, National Parks & Forests, Tours and More.

Discover the best American experiences, learn about epic camping spots, national monument tours, hiking through pristine national parks and forests, renting a cabin on federal lands and so much more.





Interagency Passes

3 types - Interagency Passes

- ❑ American the Beautiful, or Senior (*age based*) or Access (*disability based*).

The Golden Access Passport is still honored - for life of holder.

Interagency **Access Pass**

- ❑ Free, lifetime pass issued ...in person...to an U.S. resident who shows 1 of 3 types of documentation
 - that the person has been medically determined to have a permanent disability that limits one or more of that person's major life activities.



Where to get Access Pass?

- **In person, with proper documentation,**
at a participating Federal recreation office.
 - ❑ See Site Locations that issue the Access Pass on website:
<http://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html>.
- **By mail for \$10 document processing fee.**



3 Types of Written Documentation

- A statement signed by a licensed physician
or
- A document issued by a Federal agency
or
- A document issued by a State agency



Statement from a Licensed Physician

- A statement signed by a **licensed physician** attesting that the applicant has a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- A document does not have to state the nature of the impairment.
 - That is confidential medical information.



Document issued by Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration



Department of
Veterans Affairs

PO BOX 1437
ST PETERSBURG FL 33731

This letter is a summary of benefits you currently receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We are providing this letter to disabled Veterans to use in applying for benefits such as housing entitlements, free or reduced state park annual memberships, state or local property or vehicle tax relief, civil service preference, or any other program or entitlement in which verification of VA benefits is required. Please safeguard this important document. This letter replaces VA Form 20-5455, and is considered an official record of your VA entitlement.

--America is Grateful to You for Your Service--

Our records contain the following information:

Personal Claim Information:

Your VA claim number is: 1234567

Military Information:

Your character(s) of discharge and service date(s) include:

(You may have additional periods of service not listed above)

VA Benefits Information:

Service-connected disability: Yes

Your combined service-connected evaluation is:

The effective date of the last change to your current award was:

Your current monthly award amount is:

You should contact your state or local office of Veterans' affairs for information on any tax license, or fee-related benefits for which you may be eligible. State offices of Veterans' affairs are available at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.

Need Additional Information or Verification?

If you have questions about this letter or need additional verification of VA benefits, please call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 1-800-829-4833. Send electronic inquiries through the Internet at <https://irs.va.gov>.



Document issued by Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Regional Office
(1-800-827-1000)
8810 Rio San Diego Drive
San Diego CA 92108

In Reply Refer To:

Dear Veteran,

We made a decision on your claim for service connected compensation.

This letter tells you about your entitlement amount and payment start date and what we decided. It includes a copy of our rating decision that gives the evidence used and reasons for our decision. We have also included information about additional benefits, what to do if you disagree with our decision, and who to contact if you have questions or need assistance.

Your Award Amount and Payment Start Date

Your monthly entitlement amount is shown below:

Monthly Entitlement Amount	Payment Start Date	Reason For Change
	Jan 1, 2013	Original Award
	Jan 1, 2013	40% Disability - PTSD

You Can Expect Payment

Your payment begins the first day of the month following your effective date. You will receive a payment covering the initial amount due under this award, minus any withholdings. Thereafter, payment will be made at the beginning of each month for the prior month. For example, benefits due for May are paid on or about June 1.



Document issued by Federal agency such as the Social Security Disability

Social Security Administration
Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance
Notice of Award

Date: Jan 1, 2013
Claim Number: 123456789HA

John Doe
1 Main Street
Anytown, PA 12345

You are entitled to monthly disability benefits beginning [REDACTED]

What We Will Pay And When

- You will receive [REDACTED] around [REDACTED]
- This is the money you are due for [REDACTED]
- Your next payment of [REDACTED] which is for [REDACTED] will be received on or about the second Wednesday of [REDACTED]
- After that you will receive [REDACTED] on or about the second Wednesday of each month.
- These and any future payments will go to the financial institution you selected. Please let us know if you change your mailing address, so we can send you letters directly.

The day we make payments on this record is based on your date of birth.



Not accepted as proof of disability



Plan Ahead:

- Go to www.fs.fed.us select by State or by Name of National Forest.
 - Select Recreation in left column. Then the type of activity your interested in pursuing.
- www.recreation.gov for reservations at campgrounds and more.
- www.store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html

For Access Pass information

- also can order by mail (\$10) if preferred to getting it free in person..

